



New South Wales Teachers Federation  
a branch of the Australian Education Union

AEU NSW Teachers Federation Branch ABN 86 600 150 697

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NSW PRESIDENT: Maurie Mulheron • NSW GENERAL SECRETARY: John Dixon



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## NSW Teachers Federation Media Release

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# GOVERNMENT BOMBSHELL JEOPARDISES STANDARDS FOR ALL STUDENTS

*10/03/2016*

The NSW Government's shock announcement today of a review into the very foundations of educational support will spread profound dismay amongst teachers, principals and parents.

NSW Teachers Federation President, Mr Maurie Mulheron, has described the proposed review as "an ill-considered move that sadly smacks of cost-cutting. The government has placed in jeopardy the quality of NSW education across all sectors".

"The educational futures of over a million NSW youngsters should be given precedence over bureaucratic cost-shifting", Mr Mulheron said, "Today's bombshell reads like a regrettable melange of former Prime Minister Tony Abbott at his worst and the former disgraced NSW education minister Terry Metherell returning to centre stage."

The review has been invited to countenance sending responsibility for the curriculum and assessment of NSW students to Canberra along with teaching standards. This is despite the reality that Canberra education bureaucrats exist somewhere between irrelevance and scorn in the minds of most teachers and educational leaders in NSW.

The Government pronouncement today, however, speaks fondly of a "new national architecture for schools".

Canberra's version of the Australian Curriculum had to be revised, repaired and strengthened before it was of a sufficiently high standard to be acceptable in NSW classrooms.

Tony Abbott purged the Australian Institute of Teaching and School Leadership [AITSL] of teachers making it unique in the western world as a professional organisation bereft of the professionals it was "leading".

Meanwhile, the Federal Department of Education has occupied itself with the task of largely devoting itself to private schools following the mantra of their political leaders that "government school funding, management and arrangements are matters best left to the states".

Yet these are now the three entities that this review is encouraged to invite to take over the key roles in the education of NSW children.



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Parents, principals and teachers would need to deal with distant and detached Canberra bureaucrats. It is noteworthy also that all of the hand-picked reviewers are former federal bureaucrats and lack current knowledge and experience in NSW education. Revealingly, today's announcement is full of politicised management-speak.

Unsurprisingly then, the review is also encouraged to take the axe to BOSTES, the very board that brings together in partnership, parents, teachers, principals, academic experts and leaders from across the educational community. As Prime Minister Abbott did with AITSL, the prospect now exists in NSW that education will be handled by hand-picked, politically chosen, tame "experts" rather than those who know NSW education best and have the interests of children and students as their first priority.

NSW has the strongest and most respected curriculum, credentials, assessment and examination systems in the land. This is now all in jeopardy.

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